



Foggy Bottom News

October 1999

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 42, No. 1

Ward 2's Jack Evans at September FBA Meeting Note Change of Location

Jack Evans, who represents Ward 2 on the D. C. City Council, will be the featured speaker at the September 27 meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Stephen Martyr Church; the entrance is at 1011 25th Street, N.W., with handicapped access through the Rectory on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Evans last appeared at an FBA meeting during the Mayoral Candidates Forum in the summer of 1998. Jack participated in the FBA's 40th Anniversary celebration, coming to the launching of the June 19 boat trip. At that time he presented to FBA President Ellie Becker a congratulatory resolution passed by the D. C. City Council. The text of that resolution appears elsewhere in this issue.

At the September 27 meeting you will hear from this area's Councilmember on today's and tomorrow's issues, and it will provide an opportunity for you to make him aware of our expectations for his and the Council's actions in the coming months.

And Now The 1990s

By Rick Churchill

"Foggy Bottom...this friendly, human scale residential nook in the center of our big city, offers residents the luxury of being able to walk to work in the morning and to the theater at night. We abhor both the replacement of human scale historic houses by high rises and the displacement of genuine, caring residents by uncaring transient ones. We are concerned about pressures from developers, including GWU, which is particularly insensitive...."

These words could have been written at any time during the 40-year history of the FBA. However, they were written in the 1990s, and they capture the major underlying theme of this decade: the changing nature of the people in Foggy Bottom.

In the 1950s, the Foggy Bottom area was mostly zoned for residential use. However, most developers quickly eyed this area as too valuable for mere living space and federal and city government inaction did little to discourage this view. Although the gentrification of the area changed the racial and economic composition of the neighborhood, up through the 1960s, Foggy Bottom remained essentially a neighborhood of small homeowners and apartment renters.

Changes Began in the 70s & 80s

This composition drastically changed in the 1970s and 1980s, as renters were virtually eliminated by the conversion of apartments to hotels, medical clinics and dormitories. Townhouses, especially in the East End, were demolished and replaced by office buildings. By the 1990s students occupied more than a

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UPDATE NCPC Approves Red Cross Project

The National Capital Planning Commission, in early September, approved construction of a new building for the American Red Cross replacing the chapter house currently at 2025 E Street, N.W. Nearby residents and community leaders oppose the project as too large and out of keeping with the residential character of the area. The residents of six nearby apartment buildings will be affected, losing air and light, and they believe they will suffer from increased noise and congestion, and decreased real estate values.

The West End Citizens Association, represented by Jack Batham, Barbara Kahlow and former ANC Commissioner Sara Maddux, and other residents as well, have waged a long struggle to persuade the Red Cross and the NCPC to decrease the negative impact they feel the building will have on that area. Following the NCPC

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FBA Requests Court to Vacate GWU Hospital Order

By Michael Thomas

The Foggy Bottom Association has requested the D. C. Court of Appeals to vacate the August 6, 1999 order of the D. C. Board of Zoning Adjustment which authorized construction of a new hospital. A partnership of University Health Services, Inc. of Pennsylvania and The George Washington University plans to build the six-story structure on the triangular parcel just south of Washington Circle between 23rd Street and New Hampshire Avenue.

The FBA petition, filed August 20, asserts that the order is unlawful under the D. C. Code, and raises the question whether an environmental impact statement was required prior to any order of the BZA. The FBA maintains that the BZA dealt improperly with a number of issues including inadequate parking, heightened noise levels, threats to pedestrian safety, and increased vehicular traffic, especially of trucks, on the already clogged adjoining streets.

Although the new hospital would be operated by the partnership, GWU as owner of the parcel of land applied for the BZA order. In order to build a hospital in a residential or special purpose zoning district, a university must be granted a special exception. To grant the special exception, the BZA must find that the structure "will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Maps and will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property." The neighboring property in this case includes the Foggy Bottom Historic District, composed primarily of low-rise residential buildings on relatively quiet streets. The FBA petition reflects the opinion of many residents that operation of the new hospi-

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FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Speaker:

Jack Evans

Ward 2 Councilmember

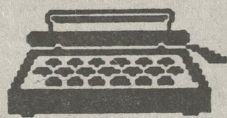
Monday, September 27, 1999

St. Stephen's Parish Hall
1011 25th Street, NW

7:30 p.m.

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

(Next Month's Meeting: October 25, 1999)



Solidly Behind the FBA

Just a note to let you know that as 10-year residents of the Foggy Bottom Historic District, we are solidly behind the FBA appeal of the BZA order. We appreciate the efforts of the FBA in this struggle to stop this project before our community is completely decimated.

Robert & Norrene Vogt
I Street, N.W.

I share the concern of those who have expressed objections to the proposed new GW hospital on the site of the existing GW parking lot just below Washington Circle. I haven't seen any press article that explains why the existing GW hospital can't be modernized and altered, or any explanation of what other use GW proposes for the building or the site of the existing hospital. It seems to me an additional obtrusive big building will be somewhat of a disaster for Foggy Bottom, including, eventually, its tax base!

June Herrick
Potomac Plaza

Aircraft Noise Irks Bikers & Hikers

As one living in the Potomac Plaza Apartments, about a hundred yards from the Potomac River, my wife and I enjoy hiking and biking along the river, as many others do. But our joy is interrupted daily by the loud noise made by aircraft landing at or taking off from National Airport and using the

Potomac River as a guide for arrival or departure.

We recommend that National Airport be required to handle lighter and smaller aircraft that make much less noise, and that heavier, noisier planes be required to use Dulles Airport, which is located in a more rural setting.

I would be pleased to receive comments and suggestions from your readers, and thanks for permitting me to communicate this message through your newspaper.

Roland I. Perusse

Ed. Note: Mr. Perusse might want to contact CAAN, the Committee Against Aircraft Noise, which advocates similar noise-abatement measures.

Please Smooth the Path!

I want to point out the deplorable condition of the walking/biking area between Thompson's Boat Center racing shell warehouse and the boardwalk of the Washington Harbour. When is the National Park Service, or whoever, going to have it paved so that hundreds of pedestrians and bikers can enjoy the path daily when approaching/leaving the harbor area? I always feel ashamed, as a Foggy Bottom resident, that it continues to be an eyesore and, during bad weather, dangerous underfoot (muddy and icy) for all of us who wish to visit the popular Washington Harbour. I wrote to the National Park Service Superintendent once and even sent a copy to Bob Levey, but received no reply. Won't someone investigate this matter?

Mrs. I. K. Melonson
Potomac Plaza

Joan Mirman

Joan Mirman, beloved daughter of Naomi Mirman, died July 15 following a long illness. Prior to her illness, Joan often stayed with her mother in Foggy Bottom and was a frequent and devoted companion of Patches, the Mirman canine. She is survived by her mother and her sister Jean and brother Larry.

Frank Connors

Frank Connors, resident of St. Mary's Court since 1987 and "devoted member and friend" of St. Stephen Martyr Church, died in his sleep on June 23 at the age of 70. His volunteer services at St. Stephen's included work in the church office, as a Eucharist minister, visiting patients at the GWU Hospital, taking the Eucharist to the hospital and to shut-ins at St. Mary's Court, and generally helping those in need, especially ill St. Mary's Court residents.



Residents Petition for H Street Bus Shelter

A petition was prepared and signed by almost 100 residents for a bench, preferably in a shelter, for the bus stop at 24th & H Streets, N.W. The stop for the 80 bus is used by many seniors, and the petition stated that it "is inconvenient, unpleasant and hard on us physically to stand in the heat or cold, some with canes, or lean against the trash receptacle or tree to wait 10 to 20 minutes for the bus (sometimes more when the bus is late)."

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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To place ads, call Olga Corey at 337-3196. Cost for classified ads is 60 cents per word; a 2-inch high by 2-columns wide (or 4-inch by 1 column) ad — the smallest available — is \$38.50.

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Washington, DC 20037

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Michael Thomas

Safeway Changes Education Campaign

Safeway has announced that individuals should choose a favorite school and sign up their Safeway Club Card to credit their purchases to that school. This program replaces the collection of cash register tapes to earn needed and desired equipment free of charge.

Foggy Bottom/West End schools are:

Stevens Elementary School
Francis Junior High School
School Without Walls
Senior High School

Be sure to sign up!

Giant has announced that it will continue the collection of special receipts which began September 19. Again this year the FBA will place boxes at the West End Library and in apartments for collection of the Giant receipts. You may bring receipts, also, to FBA meetings.

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The Becker Beat



We're Still Having a Great Birthday!

In this issue we continue coverage of the events of the 40th Anniversary, and perhaps one or two more issues. A variety of items and photos are still to be included, so many that we will need to spread them out over several issues. There are photos of and stories about the boat trip, the D'Italia art show, the Foggy Bottom tour, the cur-

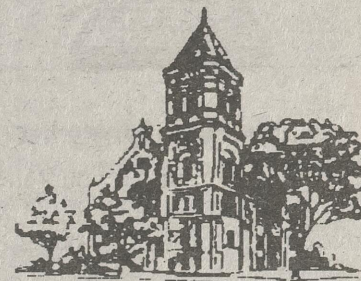
rent & former Board member luncheon, presentations at the Historical Society of Washington and the Martin Luther King Library, and Colbert King's special address at the West End Library in June.

At that meeting in June, longtime resident and FBA Board Member Lucille Molinelli, voiced the residents' appreciation to Olga Corey, who has served and is serving as 40th Anniversary

Chair. Lucille said: Our Tribute to Olga, A Dedicated Resident. Let us proclaim our friend, Olga Corey, as the 1999 FBA 40th Anniversary/ "Reach Out" Lady of the Foggy Bottom and West End Community. Her hours of loving dedication have inspired enthusiasm, historical research and keen awareness of who we are as residents and neighbors in the District of Columbia.

With appreciation
You said it, Lucille!

**FBA Meetings
1999-2000**
(All are Mondays)
September 27
October 25
November 22
January 31
February 28
March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26



It's Fall Sale Time!

Mark Wednesday and Thursday, October 27 and 28, on your calendar for the annual sale at United Church at 20th & G Streets, N.W. The traditional German luncheon, "mit Bratwurst, Sauerkraut und Kartoffel Salat," will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and again from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Of course, the usual German pastries, as well as other cakes and cookies, will tempt those browsing for bargains at the sale tables.

Donations Welcome!

Donations of second hand items (clothing, toys, white elephants, books, furniture, household wares and gadgets, etc.) for the sale would be gladly accepted, right up to set-up day, October 23. They may be brought to the church, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; please ring the door bell at the 20th Street door (between F and G Streets), or call the church office at 331-1495.

Proceeds of the sale will help ensure that church outreach programs are maintained.

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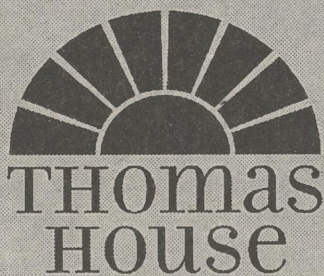


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Neighborhood Datebook

Sunday, September 26: St. Mary's Court Sunday Brunch, featuring music by Eddy McDermon's orchestra, raffle prizes, and a silent auction, as well as special brunch menu and fellowship. Proceeds will benefit programs offered at the Court for residents and other interested persons. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. Call 223-5712 for reservations. 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Monday, September 27: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans as featured speaker. St. Stephen Martyr Parish Hall, 1011 25th Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m. **Note change of location.**

Wednesday, September 29: Caucus for Precinct 4 registered Democrats to select a precinct captain for Ward 2 Democrats. (Precinct 4 is bounded by K Street on the south, 20th Street on the east, N Street between 20th & 23rd on the north, and Rock Creek Park on the west and northwest.)

Through Thursday, September 30: Special exhibit, "Foggy Bottom - The History of a Neighborhood." Open to the public seven days a week. Gelman Library, 2130 H Street, N.W.

Saturday, October 2: Seventh Annual "Taste of Georgetown" will be held on the grounds of nearby Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Featured will be about 15 restaurants, music, family activities, and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the church's community programs. Free admission; tastes between \$1 and \$3 each. Call 333-7100 for information. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 5: 1999 Flu Vaccine shots, sponsored by IONA Senior Services, at St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. Shots are free with Medicare card and proof of Part B insurance; or, a contribution of \$10 is requested. Call 966-1055 for further information. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. **Repeated on Thursday, November 4.**

Thursday, October 7: Exhibition Opening, "The Historical Precedent for the Art Quilt," featuring 30 examples of art quilts and their historical precedents. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. Museum open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 7: Jenny McKean Moore Reading Series, featuring Mary Wallace and Dan Gutstein, who teach creative writing at GWU, will read from their works. Corcoran Hall, Room 101, 725 21st Street, N.W. 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 7: National Depression Screening Day, with a written self-test for depression, an educational video, and a screening interview with a mental health professional. For further information and/or an appointment call 1-888-4GW-DOCS (1-888-449-3627). Sixth Floor, GWU Hospital, 901 23rd Street N.W. 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 7-Sunday, October 10: "Baby With the Bathwater," by Christopher Durang, presented by GWU Department of Theater and Dance. Call 994-6178 for information.

Sunday, October 10: Recital by Lily Abshar, classical guitarist, opening the 1999-2000 series at the United Church. Abshar, a faculty member at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, is a winner of several international competitions. Music to be performed includes works by Granados, Albeniz, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Domeniconi and Barrios, as well as Abshar's own arrangements of Persian ballads. United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. 3:00 p.m.

Monday, October 13: Quilter's Trunk Show—Art Quilts, featuring a discussion of quilts in the art quilt exhibit (see Oct. 7). DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. Call 879-3241 for reservations. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

Wednesday, October 20: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A monthly meeting. For location call 736-1775. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 21: Jenny McKean Moore Reading Series, featuring Fae Myenne Ng, whose first book is the novel "Bone." Corcoran Hall, Room 101, 725 21st Street, N.W. 8:15 p.m.

Monday, October 25: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Vanessa Dale Burns, Director, D. C. Department of Public Works. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday-Thursday, October 27-28: Annual Sale/German Luncheon, featuring a white elephant sale and traditional German dishes (bratwurst, sauerkraut and kartoffel salat) and German pastries. United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., with luncheon served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Through Thursday, October 28: Mary Baker Eddy Exhibit, highlighting the accomplishments of the life of this journalist, religious thinker, leader and publisher. Gelman Library Lobby, 2130 H Street, N.W. Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Through Sunday, October 31: "Japonisme" and Japanese printmaking exhibition. Dimock Gallery, 21st & H Streets, N.W. Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. and in conjunction with Lisner Auditorium events.



GWU Workers Take Down A Piece of History

Watergate West Appeals GWU Dorm

On August 2, Watergate West Inc. filed documents with the Board of Zoning Adjustment appealing the decision of the Acting Zoning Administrator in granting a Certificate of Occupancy for a dormitory in the former Howard Johnson Hotel. The residents most affected by the use of the hotel for a freshman dorm are asking zoning officials to find that the permit was erroneously issued. Barbara Spillinger, ANC Commissioner for that district, joined her Watergate West constituents in their appeal. The BZA has scheduled a hearing on the matter later this fall.

GWU Purchases More Virginia Avenue Property

Just two blocks east on Virginia Avenue, GWU has signed contracts to purchase several buildings in the 2300 block of Virginia Avenue. When the sales are completed, the University will own all of Square 43 (bounded by 24th, G Street, and 23rd Street) with the exception of the Remington apartments on (Va. Ave., to p.5)



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Foggy Bottom Hist. Dist.

24th, and three houses at the corner of 23rd and Virginia. The houses most recently purchased are said to have cost the University close to or over \$1 million each.

The University also notified the student tenants of its houses in that square that their leases would be cancelled at the end of this year. At least one senior, according to The GW Hatchet, is trying to change the decision which would evict him within one semester of graduation. The article also said that GWU's real property manager would not comment on plans for the square, which also includes vacant land on G Street where GWU bought and tore down a number of residential units.

Another Real Estate Note

Rumors have been circulating for months that GWU intends to purchase the Elise Apartments on New Hampshire Avenue. Paul Sakwa, a tenant of the building, reported to the News that a Gelman Company official has denied the sale of the building to GWU, or to any other party. According to Sakwa, Lawrence Hirschman, a property manager for Gelman advised him in mid-September that there is no truth to the rumors.

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third of existing housing stock outside George Washington University control. Visitors and tourists from more than two dozen hotels constituted another third of the neighborhood's population. The FBA's history as the first integrated association, as a strong advocate of rent control and a proponent against apartment conversions, was lost to a new generation of officials who saw an upscale neighborhood fighting the tides of progress.

A long-running and torturous drama of this decade began in the summer of 1991. The International Monetary Fund announced plans to acquire the property occupied by Western Presbyterian Church at 19th & H Sts. Under the plan, the Church would relocate to 24th and Virginia. And with its newly acquired IMF wealth, Western Presbyterian would launch a plethora of outreach programs including its homeless feeding program known as Miriam's Kitchen. Neighborhood opposition arose not over the feeding of the homeless (there were over a half dozen such programs in the neighborhood at the time) but about the particular location and its proximity to a large residential neighborhood.

The IMF mission is to help underdeveloped countries, but wanted no part of a symbolic hosting of the poor next to its headquarters. The church was indifferent because most parishioners and the pastor didn't live in the neighborhood. Therefore they didn't have to live with the consequences of their actions. Foggy Bottom residents were accused of being insensitive to the poor by the developing forces that had previously displaced hundred of poor and moderate-income renters. After seven years of protracted maneuvering, the IMF received millions of dollars of building rights, the church received millions of dollars for its operations and charities and Foggy Bottom hosted further residential erosion.

Historic preservation came into its own at this time first by surviving years of legal challenges from developers. Secondly, with the creation of Foggy Bottom Historic District, the neighborhood asserted more clout in monitoring even matter-of-right developments. Having to conform to the distinctive features within our historic district, developments like the Cooper Houses on K Street turned out much differently with this protection.

The George Washington University got a new president, Stephen Trachtenberg. And while he seems

more personable and accessible to the neighborhood than his predecessors were, he made no apologies about GWU's westward expansion to the Potomac River. Assaults on the residential fabric are on-going; perhaps the most significant change in university policy toward the neighborhood was the breaking of the 40-year-old promise not to pass 24th Street. This was first breached with the acquisition of the Foggy Bottom Inn. This year, GWU acquired the former Howard Johnson Hotel of Watergate fame. And the city government, rather than admonishing the university, is on the verge of refinancing the university's real estate purchases with a \$400-million bond issue.

People Made Foggy Bottom Great

Throughout all this seriousness the FBA still had time to play. Spring house and garden tours and fall block parties and fun fairs set a festive mood. These gatherings were always a good opportunity to meet new neighbors, exchange unwanted household treasures and rub elbows with the city politicians. Conspicuously absent from most of these parties were two of the strongest supporters of the neighborhood, David Clarke, Council Chair, and our own Ward 2 Councilmember and Council Chair John Wilson. Their untimely deaths made our task much harder as the city government sank from incompetence to bankruptcy. After six years, we still miss them, and especially John, who was a personal friend to many of us, and in many ways the lost and perhaps last receptacle of our hopes and dreams for our neighborhood and our city.

Every decade faces the loss of members who contributed greatly and unselfishly in the neighborhood. Of the many, two seemed to symbolize the best in Foggy Bottom: Betty Olsen who shared her love of life with all she knew, and Jimmy Molinelli who was simply Mr. West End.

The shortness of space precludes proper recognition of the many contributions unselfishly made by our neighbors, past and present. However, I would be remiss by not acknowledging the contributions of Maria Tyler. No one has worked harder for improvements surrounding the Whitehurst Freeway, the down-zoning of Foggy Bottom's Historic District or the limiting of bus traffic on our neighborhood's narrow streets. If Maria Tyler were not an ANC Commissioner, she would have created her own forum for residential preservation. Not always loved, always respected, she has ensured by her efforts that Foggy Bottom sleeps a little better knowing that since her arrival in the neighborhood, city officials and developers have had to resort to large bottles of Maalox for their "Maria Moments."

Recollections and Random Thoughts

In an interview to close this series, FBA President Ellie Becker reminisced along with the writer about this area, her home for 36 years. She is certain it is a place worth her time and effort and the efforts of all the others who work and have worked so hard for it, and who care about it. "Foggy Bottom people love this neighborhood."

(1990's, to p.6)

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(1990's, from p.5)

borhood, and show it in so many ways. It surprises me each year to see hundreds of dues checks come in after a single FBA membership mailing, and even some call ahead of time to find out when they should pay their dues. I guess they think it's worth their money, time and effort too."

When she was first elected FBA president, she hoped to soothe some of the strident relations between the university and community leaders, but found that GWU made it an insurmountable task. Now she feels the university is unrelenting in its expansion of everything but student housing within the campus. When she recently spoke to some GWU freshman orientation staffers, she told them: "We're not so different from your families in New York, New Jersey, and points north, south and west. They don't want super highways coming past their houses, or unpleasant businesses on the corner, or renters or owners who let their properties deteriorate."

She also mentioned that for a good part of the time she has lived here, she was almost unaware of the university: "It was over there east of 23rd Street, and it did not enter our consciousness to any great degree." Becker recalled that few single-family homes and no banks of apartments bulged with students, many of whom are terrific but some are neither very well bred nor good neighbors. "GW stayed within its boundaries and the rest of us went about our lives."

After listing property after property outside the campus boundaries which have been added to GW's real estate portfolio, Becker told the students: "We in the FBA believe GWU has its rights, and we do too. But does it have the right to keep getting bigger at our expense? And does bigger mean better?"

She thinks she knows how the students might answer that question, and also the faculty. But she wonders if the GWU Board of Trustees has ever asked itself that question and how they would answer if they really pondered it.

And Becker, who also edits the Foggy Bottom News, can't help but wonder what's in store for Foggy Bottom in 2000 and beyond.

Ed. Note: This concludes the series started last spring on the four decades of the Foggy Bottom Association. Having Rick Churchill, former FBA President and experienced writer, do the series, was a perfect choice. Kathy Haley, his wife and former editor of the Foggy Bottom News, aided him. They felt it was a labor of love.

GWU Bond Financing Hearing on October 8

A hearing will be held on Friday, October 8, on proposed revenue bond project financing for GWU's recent real estate purchases. The hearing, at 2:00 p.m. in the D. C. Council Chamber at 441 Fourth Street, N.W., will consider bonds in support of the financing of projects by GWU and the National Cathedral School. According to reports, university officials are requesting over \$400 million in bond financing in order to decrease the interest rates on their loans.

According to the notice, "Any resident [of D.C.] or any person interested in the Bonds or the purpose of the projects may appear and be heard." Individuals and representatives of the organizations who desire to present oral testimony are requested to phone in their names, addresses and telephone numbers to Patrick Scott at 724-8153 or John McGaw at 724-8152 by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 6. Individuals will be allowed 3 minutes, panels to 5 minutes, and 10 copies of their testimony is requested at or prior to the hearing.



Councilmembers Jack Evans and Phil Mendelson present 40th Anniversary Resolution to FBA President Ellie Becker

A Ceremonial Resolution In the Council of the District of Columbia

Councilmember Evans

Councilmember Allen
Councilmember Ambrose
Councilmember Brazil
Councilmember Catania
Councilmember Chavous
Chairman Cropp

Councilmember Graham
Councilmember Jarvis
Councilmember Mendelson
Councilmember Orange
Councilmember Patterson
Councilmember Schwartz

FOGGY BOTTOM DAY DECLARATION RESOLUTION OF 1999

To recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Foggy Bottom Association and to declare June 19th "Foggy Bottom Day."

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1959, the D. C. government, by approving its Articles of Incorporation, officially recognized the organization now known as the Foggy Bottom Association. Its name then was the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association, and its members were in the throes of making run-down and neglected turn-of-the-century houses into a charming neighborhood. Their efforts turned blight into beauty and forestalled the wrecking ball of the then-popular urban renewal.

WHEREAS, soon into the neighborhood came highways, high-rise apartment buildings, and new business establishments, replacing many townhouses, small retail businesses, and the abandoned industrial area on the river. Battles were fought and compromises negotiated with developers and various Federal and local government bodies. Now it is home to charming small houses, an historic district, large residential apartment buildings, a performing arts center, and to a renowned university, as well as its own Metro station. Its residents proclaim its assets and advantages, while their endeavors to prevent further attrition continue unabated.

WHEREAS, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its incorporation, the Council of the District of Columbia acknowledges the accomplishments of the Foggy Bottom Association, its leaders now and over the years, and the residents of this vibrant and unique neighborhood.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Foggy Bottom Day Declaration Recognition Resolution of 1999."

The Council of the District of Columbia declares June 19th as "Foggy Bottom Day" in the District of Columbia.

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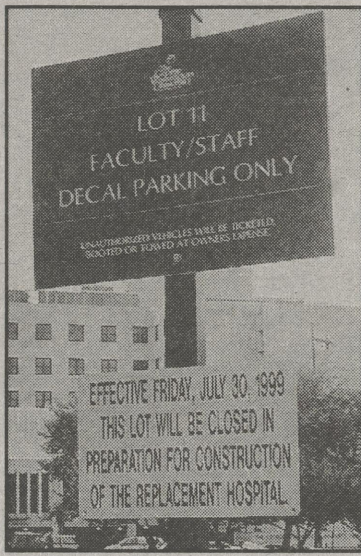
Worship 11:00 a.m.

BZA Formally Approves Hospital

On August 6, the Board of Zoning Adjustment issued its Decision and Order approving the special exception which will allow construction of a new hospital building on Square 40, just north of the Foggy Bottom Metro Station. The August document formalizes the decision announced at a May 19, 1999 hearing.

While applauding the desire of the University and the hospital's operators to provide a state-of-the-art facility, residents voiced concerns about the bulk and height of the building, the danger to pedestrians posed by three driveways across the heavily-traveled side-walk, and a large loading dock on narrow 24th Street, adding trash and medical waste trucks — and tractor trailers — to an already congested street bordering the Foggy Bottom Historic District.

The BZA concluded "that the replacement hospital will not be incompatible with the neighborhood in terms of height, scale, or bulk," and also that the "hospital will not



tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property." Several conditions were attached to the approval, concerning the emergency entrance, the loading dock, the main entrance and parking.

In addition, BZA member Betty King filed a separate letter explaining and elaborating on her vote to deny the application. She repeated her charge at the time of the original vote that it was "ludicrous" to find that there would be no harmful effect on the neighboring residential area.

The FBA has appealed the BZA's order to the D. C. Court of Appeals. A separate article in more detail appears elsewhere in this issue. In addition, the ANC

FBA plans rally at hospital ground breaking
October 6-11:30 AM
Info: 337-5528/337-1477

requested reconsideration of the order. In the request filed August 19, 1999, the ANC stated that the applicant had withheld needed information on parking and traffic; it also listed violations of "off street on campus parking" requirements, and that the Board had failed to consult with other DC agencies regarding the project.

Sholl's Cafeteria To Stay

The threat to Sholl's Cafeteria, a favorite downtown spot for healthy and low-cost meals, has been forestalled by the signing of a more affordable lease agreement than had earlier been offered by the owners of 1990 K Street.

The cafeteria's owners had faced a 25% rent increase which was far above the restaurant's financial capability. A "Save Our Sholl's Committee," organized by Jim McGrath, has been working for some months to generate support and help for the city's oldest cafeteria, which caters to seniors and school groups, and has a reputation for feeding the homeless.

Just before a planned protest rally, the owners reached the agreement and the rally turned into a celebration. McGrath, in a prepared statement, said "Sholl's is still not out of the financial woods." For that reason, the SOS Committee plans a benefit fund-raiser for the restaurant at a later date.

New Ramsey Order May Disrupt PSAs

This summer D. C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey announced a new directive aimed at increasing police coverage at night and on weekends, when the heaviest crime takes place. The plan, due in September, will deploy officers by seniority, allowing senior officers to choose shifts and days off, regardless of current PSA assignment within the Second District. Officers with less time on the job, such as some in Foggy Bottom and West End's PSAs, may be reassigned, just when they have become familiar with their beats.

FBA President Ellie

Becker wrote to Chief Ramsey, objecting to the idea of moving the officers familiar with our area, especially so soon after Ramsey set up the system which keeps the same officers on patrol in each of the PSAs. On behalf of St. Mary's Court, Beatrice Watson wrote the Chief commending 207's officers as cooperative and kind, and stating that Court residents "have come to feel familiar and totally unafraid to reach out when in need."

The new plan is not popular with the officers who like their beats and assignments and fear disruption of their lives. Both officers and residents hope the Chief's goals can be accomplished by fewer personnel changes.

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The Local Kaleidoscope

By John Graves

After 52 years why should I go on a "walking tour" of Foggy Bottom? I had done that many times when I was younger and my WWII Infantry feet were in much better shape then. But I'm glad I did. Smithsonian guide and historian, Steve Hoglund, did a masterful job on the tour sponsored by the FBA 40th Anniversary Committee.

A sizeable crowd gathered at Monroe Park (northeast corner of 20th and the Avenue) on a sunny/cloudy Sunday, and a "duke's mixture" it was — all ages, curious and eager; we even had some who had moved from Bethesda and bought homes in Foggy Bottom—so take that, Stevedore!

The Arts Club on Eye Street was the temporary home of President Monroe and his front yard is now Monroe Park (that part of Eye Street did not exist in his day.) That was our first relic, and the walk began; then the clouds came, then the sudden rain followed by immediate sun. The most historic stop was the former home of Chief Justice John Marshall, among other Justices and dignitaries,



Tour Group Assembles in Monroe Park for Walking Tour (before the rain!)

at 1801 F Street, now owned by the DACOR Bacon Foundation. We were fortunate to have, as our narrator, retired Diplomat William Calderhead who was a most informed docent. DACOR is the acronym for Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired. I interjected that on the opposite southeast corner was the old Moonlight Grill with splintery wood booths and one Blue Ribbon Beer neon light in the mirror behind the bar, which provided a very dark atmosphere for a cheap college guy to take his date. One proviso: drink the beer from the bottle because the glasses were so dirty; cost 15 cents!

Upon our exit the rain came again as we scurried to the canopy at the Statesman Apartments. Oh, yes, I failed to mention that at the beginning of our tour I noted that south of Monroe Park, in the 2000 block of Eye Street, was the preserved facade of the

original row houses called "Red Lion Row." It was named in honor of the Red Lion Cafe which also functioned as a "house of ill fame." Lili Barry ran a high-class place and catered only to the high and mighty political and business giants. I knew Lili, and she would be pleased that she was recalled favorably on this historic tour. So much for my cultural contributions to the walk!

(Update, from p.1)

hearing, Kahlow asserted that the Red Cross "was never willing to meet even once with our community to negotiate a compromise."

The new 10-story building replaces the current 4-story structure, and the Red Cross plans to move 1200 employees there, who are now scattered in other offices in the area. Eventually they may have as many as 2000 workers in the building. The building belongs to the Federal government, is leased to the Red Cross, and it is subject to the NCPC rather than to local zoning officials. In at least two major votes, the NCPC members who represent the D. C. Council and the Mayor voted to approve the project.

Kahlow stated that the WECA and the residents are taking their case to the Commission on Fine Arts which is meeting on the project in mid-September.

FBA Board Elected in June

The FBA membership elected for 1999-2000 three residents new to the Board, along with eight "returnees." Cathleen (Kate) Clinton is serving as Membership Director; Doug Abbey and David Alexander as at-large directors complete the "freshman" trio.

Returning as Presi-

dent is Ellie Becker; Charles Farbstein moves from being an at-large director to Vice President; and Lucille Molinelli and Rita Champagne return as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Continuing on the Board are Catherine Braun, Russ Conlan, and Olga Corey, along with Michael Thomas, returning after a nine month "sabbatical" at the London School of Economics.

(Hospital, from p.1)

tal as planned, and as approved by the BZA, would seriously and adversely impact the residential values and use of their property.

DCRA Puts Hold on Building Permit

Shortly after the filing of the BZA decision, Lloyd Jordan, Director of the D. C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, put a hold on the issuance of a building permit for the project, pending the applicant's compliance with a request for impact information from health officials. The requested information includes an air quality analysis, traffic and soil surveys, and a plan for disposition of the current hospital building. GWU, which owns that hospital building, has previously declined to say what is planned for that site.

None of the information requested by the Health Department was available to the BZA. Depending upon what use or uses are planned for the current hospital site, and the outcome of the required surveys, the adverse impacts on the environment and upon the adjoining neighborhood could be revealed in much more meaningful detail than in the record in the BZA case.

The University plans to submit additional information in response to the pending requests, and to request a meeting with city officials, according to GWU Senior Counsel Charles Barber. However, the University has just formed a committee to survey possible uses of the current hospital property. It apparently takes the position that aggregate impacts from the new hospital and the new uses of the current hospital property cannot be considered in ruling on environmental and other issues pertaining to the issuance of a DCRA building permit.

Appeals and Building Plans Continue

Hospital management closed the parking lot which would become the building site some weeks ago, and has announced a groundbreaking ceremony for October 6. However, before construction can begin DCRA must first grant a building permit. In the meantime, filing of briefs in the case brought by the FBA will begin in November and be completed in January, with argument before the Court of Appeals to follow. Meanwhile, an appeal filed by ANC Commissioner Dorothy Miller challenging the approval of the hospital's Certificate of Need by the D. C. State Health Planning & Development Agency, is also proceeding before the Board of Appeals and Review.

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